



NIH Environmental Management System

Take Action to Protect the Future



NEMS NEWS

April 2011



For more information:

www.nems.nih.gov

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“THE GREEN SPOTLIGHT”

*Each month we will spotlight an employee or
topic of interest at the NIH.*

Our spotlight is shining this month on *Earth Day*.

The idea of Earth Day first came to Gaylord Nelson, then a U.S. Senator from Wisconsin, after witnessing the ravages of the 1969 massive oil spill in Santa Barbara, California. Being inspired by student protests he realized that if he could infuse that energy with an emerging public consciousness about air and water pollution, it would pressure the national political agenda to include environmental protection. As a result, on the 22nd of April, 20 million Americans took to the streets, parks, and auditoriums to demonstrate for a healthy, sustainable environment in massive coast-to-coast rallies. Thousands of colleges and universities organized protests against the deterioration of the environment. Groups that had been fighting against oil spills, polluting factories and power plants, raw sewage, toxic dumps, pesticides, freeways, the loss of wilderness, and the extinction of wildlife suddenly realized they shared common values.

Earth Day 1970 achieved a rare political alignment, enlisting Republicans and Democrats, rich and poor, city slickers and farmers, tycoons and labor leaders. The first Earth Day led to the creation of the United States Environmental Protection Agency and the passage of the Clean Air, Clean Water, and Endangered Species Acts. <http://www.hulu.com/watch/67649/earth-day-first-earth-day-april-22-1970>

This is an opportunity for all NIH employees to set personal environmental goals such as walking more, recycling, composting, and carpooling. Whatever you do make it a lifestyle change.

As Federal employees we are mandated to make the changes necessary to achieve goals in conjunction with EO 13514. Protecting human and environmental health is also achieved through sustainability goals (both personal and collective) including reduced use of ozone-depleting compounds, increased use of materials with recycled and bio-based content, and reduction of waste generation.

Remember this is our only Earth we can't replace it but, we can save it.



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EARTH DAY

LOCAL EVENTS AND RESOURCES:

This month, OPDIVs across HHS will host various events to celebrate Earth Day. Earth Day is celebrated nationally on April 22, marking the anniversary of the first Earth Day held on April 22, 1970. OPDIVs will host their celebrations and additional activities, on different days throughout the month.

Office of the Secretary (OS)

Green Bag Lunch

HHH Room 425A

Noon – 1:00 p.m.

April 21, 2011

You are invited to bring your healthy lunch and join us for a Green Bag presentation on the History of Earth Day, Your Ecological Footprint, and What You Can Do.

National Walk at Lunch

Noon to 1:00 p.m.

April 27, 2011

Educational materials and displays in the Great Hall will focus on earth and human health. There will be a National Walk @ Lunch event on the Plaza.

Fort Detrick

Earth Day Celebration

April 21, 2011

10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.

Building 1520A, Community Activities Center (CAC)

For more information, contact Jenni Benson, Education and Outreach Coordinator, at 301-619-6800 or jenni.benson@us.army

Upcoming Events and Meetings

Green Team Leads Council Meeting

Wednesday April 20th 1:00-3:00pm

Bldg 31/6C Room 7

Earth Day

Thursday April 28th 10:00am-2:00pm

Front Lawn of Building 1

Sustainable Labs Working Group

Wednesday April 27th 1:30-2:30pm

Bldg 31/6C Room 7

